

There are many benefits

- **For youth and children:** Students receive individualized attention and unconditional acceptance from volunteers who help them learn. Youth and children also have an opportunity to acquire a positive attitude toward older adults and insight into the aging process.
- **For volunteers:** Volunteers have an opportunity to share their skills and expertise, interact with the staff and volunteers of local agencies and gain a feeling of accomplishment. Volunteers also build new, rewarding friendships with young people.
- **For staff:** Teachers, librarians and residential staff gain access to experiences and resources that enhance their effectiveness and enrich the curriculum or program activities. Senior volunteers improve student achievement and attitude, provide insight into individual behavior and needs, and perform non-teaching tasks.

When can programs take place?

Intergenerational programs can become a reality in your agency or community right now! The Illinois Department on Aging can provide program development resources that outline suggested procedures for starting a program. The Department is also prepared to work with groups of interested individuals from a site or community. Training is offered and speakers are available throughout the year.

For further information

regarding Intergenerational Program development, call the Illinois Department on Aging toll-free **Senior HelpLine:**

1-800-252-8966

1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

Intergenerational
Programs



RSVP
Foster
Grandparents

Illinois Department on Aging

421 E. Capitol Avenue, #100
Springfield, IL 62701-1789

www.state.il.us/aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

Printed by Authority State of Illinois
IL-402-1033 (Rev. 7/06 - 1M)



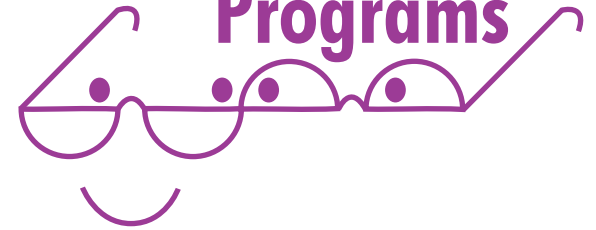
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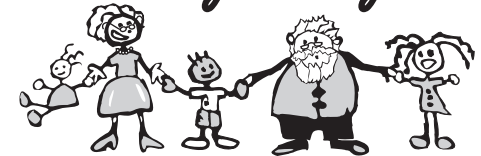
Illinois Department on Aging

Charles D. Johnson, Director

Intergenerational Programs



Building a Bridge



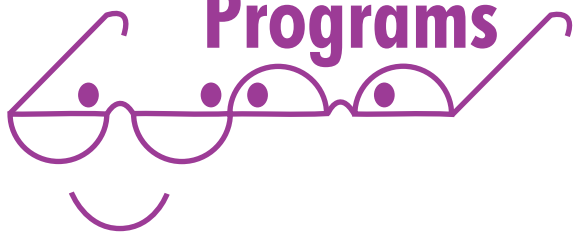
Across the Generations

**Resources, Training and
Technical Assistance**

Illinois Department
on Aging



Intergenerational Programs



... are rooted in the spirit of volunteerism, where older adults give their time to help children develop both in life and as students.

Seniors play an important role in the lives of children. Any time a caring adult is involved one-on-one with a child, the chances for that child to succeed improve.

Contact the Illinois Department on Aging for information on starting or connecting with an intergenerational program in your community.

What are intergenerational programs?

Intergenerational programs bring together individuals from different generations to work in mutually beneficial activities. Perhaps seniors read to a small group of children, listen to children read or practice flash card skills. Perhaps young members of a T-Ball team or soccer team adopt an older adult residential facility and develop meaningful relationships through service projects or pen-pal programs. Perhaps seniors are "Storytellers" at a local library during the summer.

Older adults and high school students can enjoy planning and initiating a joint

Senior Prom or community beautification project. Whatever the community or school needs, programs are enriched by different generations coming together to contribute and learn from each other. Everyone benefits. Intergenerational programs rely on the experiences and skills of older adults to encourage students, while stimulating motivation and enthusiasm toward learning. At the same time, older adults feel needed and productive.

Program Development

Intergenerational programs are supported by the Illinois Department on Aging through training opportunities and resources, and are developed and managed locally by project coordinators. Each program is based on the needs of the community, has an identity that is meaningful to that community and operates in a manner that is efficient and effective. Resources, technical assistance and training are available to help in program development through the Department.

How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways to get involved with intergenerational programs. You may choose to take a leadership role or simply offer your services as a volunteer.

The Local Project Coordinator

- initiates the program locally
- coordinates sites and volunteers
- provides local leadership

The Volunteer Coordinator

- recruits volunteers
- is the main contact for volunteers
- promotes the program among potential volunteer groups

The Site Coordinator

- is the main contact for agency staff
- helps match volunteers with staff
- promotes intergenerational program interest in the agency

The Volunteer

- donates time fitting their schedule
- provides caring, patience and interest in other generations
- honors the need for confidentiality

Volunteer Opportunities

Activities are limited only by the imagination of the volunteers, staff, administrators and coordinators. Programs occur before, after and during school. **Examples are:**

- helping in the school or community library
- storytelling
- tutoring
- sharing travel experiences
- introducing a craft, skill or hobby
- relating participation in a historical event
- talking about job and life experiences
- assisting in music or art
- developing a butterfly garden
- running errands for an older adult
- raking leaves or trimming hedges
- helping with science experiments
- serving as lunch room, playground and hall/school monitor